Connecting People with Nature (CPWN) Post-Project Report Hucrest Elementary School Project 2017 (CPWN #19) USFWS Roseburg Field Office

Photo credits: Hucrest Elementary School with releases kept on file at the school.

A 2017 CPWN grant was awarded to the USFWS's Roseburg Field Office (Service) for the purchase of materials to build planting beds benefitting pollinators and to serve as a living laboratory for the students at Hucrest Elementary School. Hucrest Elementary School is within the Roseburg School District, in Roseburg, Oregon, with an enrollment of 428 students in grades Kindergarten through 5th grade. CPWN purchased materials included: dimensional lumber, soil, irrigation devices, and 10 species of native pollinator plants. Hucrest, in partnership with the Wolf Creek Job Corps, which is no-cost education and career technical training program for young people ages 16 to 24 administered by the U.S. Department Labor, contributed to this project by constructing the plant beds. Hucrest students did the planting, and will do the irrigation, and after care of the plants.

Through teacher lead instruction, the pollinator plant beds will enable the students to become acquainted, face-to-face, with pollinator ecology and how the native plant species function to provide food and protection to pollinators such as the monarch butterfly and native bees. The plant selection includes milkweed, lupine, checkermallow, mule ears, hyacinth brodiaea, goldenrod, red flowering currant, fernleaf biscuitroot, creeping Oregon grape, and Oregon sunshine. The lupine will provide pollen for native bees while the other plants provide nectar for butterflies and the milkweed provides rearing habitat for the monarch butterfly.



The flower beds will function as a year-round outdoor classroom allowing students to learn about pollinators and the dynamics and seasonal characteristics of pollinator plants and their pollinators.

This project fulfills the Next Generation Science K-5 standards, gives students a unique hands-on learning experience and provides the teachers the ability to bring lessons alive in a way that is meaningful at all ages.